

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, three changes are made to this National Phase application. First, the specification has been amended to include a cross-reference section to the applications on which this application relies for priority. Second, the Abstract has been amended to place it in appropriate format under U.S. rules. Third, the claims have been amended to remove improper claim format, in particular, multiply dependent claims that were dependent upon multiply dependent claims. The claims also were amended to correct minor grammatical inconsistencies and irregularities.

In making the claim amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Moreover, since the claim amendments are being presented solely to place the claims in an examinable format, and not in response to any objection or rejection by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are not subject to the effect of prosecution history estoppel such that the scope of the claims may be considered more narrow than the claims presented in the PCT application on which this application relies for priority. To the contrary, the Applicants intend for the claims to have at least the same scope as the claims presented in the PCT application.

In addition, in order to reduce the fees associated with presenting these claims to the Office, the Applicants have not duplicated all of the claim permutations that were presented in the PCT application. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to add claims duplicative of those presented in the PCT application and do not intend to relinquish the subject matter contained therein.

New National Phase Application of Kenichi ITO et al.

Entry and consideration of this amendment is requested along with an early action on the merits of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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